

Chief Pontiac of the Ottawa tribe addressing a gathering of Ottawa, Huron, and Potawatomi Indians, May 5, 1763

It is important for us, my brothers, that we exterminate from our lands this nation which seeks only to destroy us.

Therefore, my brothers, we must all swear their destruction and wait no longer. Nothing prevents us: They are few in numbers, and we can accomplish it.

All the nations who are our brothers attack them – why should we not strike too? Are we not men like them? Have I now shown you the wampum belts [beaded belts symbolizing an agreement or treaty] which I received from our great father, the Frenchman [King Louis XV]? He tells us to strike them. Why do we not listen to his words? What do we fear? It is time.

The Stamp Act is Fair by Lord South

Some Americans claim they should not be taxed because they cannot elect representative to Parliament. But, that is a strange position for Americans to take. For they only allow property owners to vote for representatives to their colonial legislatures. Yet, they impose many taxes on everyone, including those who do not own property. What hypocrites. The fact is, they recognize that those who cannot vote can still influence those who can, Since virtually every colonial merchant and legislature had an agent in London, it is clear that Americans are able to influence the votes of their English cousins.

The Stamp Act is Unfair by Henry Patrick

I am not suggesting that a government can only tax those who are allowed to vote. In Virginia, only people who own property can vote, yet some taxes must be paid by all. That is fair because those who cannot vote can still influence those who can, for they are neighbors and friends. But, how can we influence those who vote for Parliament, when we live thousands of miles away from them?

Document 4: Witness Jane Whitehouse's trial deposition.

“A Man came behind the Soldiers walked backwards and forward, encouraging them to fire. The Captain stood on the left about three yards. The man touched one of the Soldiers upon the back and said fire, by God I'll stand by you. He was dressed in dark colored clothes.... He did not look like an Officer. The man fired directly on the word and clap on the Shoulder. I am positive the man was not the Captain.... I am sure he gave no orders.... I saw one man take a chunk of wood from under his Coat throw it at a Soldier and knocked him. He fell on his face. His firelock⁷ was out of his hand.... This was before any firing.”

Document 2: Thomas Preston, Captain British of the army, account of the Boston Massacre, 1770

The mob still increased and were more outrageous, striking their clubs or bludgeons one against another, and calling out, 'come on you rascals, you bloody backs, you lobster scoundrels, fire if you dare, G-d damn you, fire and be damned, we know you dare not,' and much more such language was used. At this time I was between the soldiers and the mob. They advanced to the points of the bayonets, struck some of them and even the muzzles of the pieces, and seemed to be endeavouring to close with the soldiers.... While I was thus speaking, one of the soldiers having received a severe blow with a stick, stepped a little on one side and instantly fired, and [while] asking him why he fired without orders, I was struck with a club on my arm...

